

Melling Primary School



Pupil Premium Policy

Review schedule	
Policy ratified	Sept 2025
Date for next review	Sept 2027

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1.Aims

This policy aims to :

- Provide background information about the Pupil Premium Grant so that all members of the school community understands its purpose and which pupils are eligible.
- Set out how the school will make decisions on Pupil Premium spending.
- Summarise the roles and responsibilities of those involved in managing the Pupil Premium in school.

2.Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premiumallocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2024-to-2025> published by the Department for Education (DfE). It is also based on guidance from the DfE on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premiumvirtual-school-heads-responsibilities> and the <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupilpremium/pupil-premium#service> In addition, this policy refers to the DfE's information on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-maintained-schools-must-publish-online> and complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

This policy is part of our commitment to reducing inequalities in outcomes and promoting the inclusive nature of the work we do at our school.

In developing this policy, we have taken into account our statutory responsibilities in meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 requires us as a public organisation to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and two specific duties. Further information is available in our school's PSED & Equality statement.

The overlap with our Equality Scheme is in relation to how we are meeting the needs of our pupils who are covered under the 'protected characteristics' of the Equality Act. Some of these pupils, especially minority ethnic, pupil with English as an additional language, pupils with Special Educational Needs and pupils with disabilities can suffer from higher rates of disadvantage and therefore can have higher rates of eligibility for FSM. Where this is the case, we shall take these additional needs into account.

When developing this Pupil Premium Policy, we have also taken into account the Ofsted Inspection Framework 2024, which places a strong focus on improving the learning and progress of different groups and on narrowing gaps in standards. We also note that Ofsted has a statutory duty to report on the outcomes and provision for pupils who are disabled and those who have special educational needs.

3.Purpose of the grant

The Pupil Premium Grant is additional funding allocated to publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and support pupils with parents in the armed forces. The school will use the grant to support these groups, which comprise pupils with a range of different abilities, to narrow any achievement gaps between them and their peers.

We also recognise that not all pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. In such cases, the grant will be used to help improve pupils' progress and attainment so that they can reach their full potential.

DfE Guidelines for use of PP funding:

PP grant must be spent to achieve the purposes set out in section 1.2 of these conditions of grant.

The grant can be spent:

for the benefit of eligible pupils registered at settings that meet the funding criteria

on community services whose provision furthers the benefit of eligible pupils at the setting.

Settings do not have to spend PP so that it solely benefits pupils who meet the funding criteria. PP grant can be used to support other pupils with identified needs, such as those who have or have had a social worker, or who act as a carer. It can also be used for whole class interventions which will also benefit non-disadvantaged pupils

It is important to note that funding can and is used for the benefit of all children, as well as the eligible pupils themselves – this is in line with DfE guidelines.

4. Use of the grant

Use of the grant alters slightly from year to year depending on the challenges faced by the pupils. The school aspires for all pupils to achieve their full potential and the Pupil Premium Grant allocated is used to narrow the attainment gaps which currently exist between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

The school uses evidence based research from <https://www.suttontrust.com/> and Education Endowment Foundation <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/>

4.1 The Governors of Melling Primary have agreed that the following will be funded by the grant:

➤ Intervention Programmes

➤ Teaching assistant support for catch up support.

➤ Employment of an ELSA and Family Support Worker who can support individual and small groups of pupils in social and emotional aspects of learning and offer support to parents where needed.

➤ Employment of the services of an Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to improve attendance for children where attendance is an issue.

➤ Online learning platforms such as Education City & Times Tables Rock Stars.

➤ Small group tuition.

➤ Small discounts towards educational trips and visits.

The Governors promote the most effective use of funding that meets the research findings of The Education Endowment Foundation.

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4.2 Analysis of the gaps and narrowing the gaps

➤ At the beginning of all intervention programmes, standardised or diagnostic assessment tests are implemented to monitor the progress of the children and the effectiveness of the intervention programmes.

➤ Quality First Teaching for ALL.

➤ Looking for Learning for all

➤ Pupil Progress meetings

➤ Emotional support where needed

➤ Behavioural support where needed

4.3 Evaluation of impact

- Interventions are monitored, reviewed assessed every term.

- A review of Pupil Premium spending is carried out on an annual basis

- A strategy for Pupil Premium spending is carried out on an annual basis

4.4 How we will make decisions regarding the use of the Pupil Premium

In making decisions on the use of the Pupil Premium we will:

➤ Ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our school is used solely for its intended purpose. We also recognise that the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) has an element of deprivation funding included in it to address the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.

➤ Use the latest evidence based research on proven strategies which work to narrow the attainment gaps and adapt these as necessary to meet the needs of our pupils.

➤ Be transparent in our reporting of how we have used the Pupil Premium, so that our parents, interested stakeholders and Ofsted are fully aware of how this additional resource has been used to make a difference.

➤ Encourage take up of FSM by working proactively with our parents and carers in a sensitive and supportive manner and to remove any potential barriers or stigma attached to claiming FSM. In doing so, we also recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children.

➤ Be mindful of the fact that eligibility and take up of FSM does not equate with pupils being considered to be of 'low ability' because of their social circumstances.

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- Ensure there is robust monitoring and evaluation in place to account for the use of the Pupil Premium, by the school governors
- Recognise the fact that FSM pupils are not an homogeneous group and cover a wide range of needs. As such the strategies we use to raise attainment will take these group and individual needs fully into account.
- Use high quality teaching and learning as the preferred way to narrow the gaps in attainment in the first instance. We will also use high quality interventions with proven evidence of impact to assist our pupils who need additional support in a time limited way.
- Use the Pupil Premium for all year groups not just those taking examinations at the end of the year.

5. Eligible pupils

The Pupil Premium grant is allocated to the school based on the number of eligible pupils. Eligible pupils fall into the following categories:

5.1 Ever 6 free school meals

Pupils who are recorded in the most recent January census who are known to have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance).

This includes pupils first known to be eligible for free school meals in the most recent January census.

It does not include pupils who received universal infant free school meals but would not otherwise have received free lunches.

5.2 Children in care

Pupils who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority in England or Wales.

5.3 Post children in care

Pupils recorded in the most recent January census and alternative provision census who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.

5.4 Ever 6 service children

Pupils:

- With a parent serving in the regular armed forces

- Who have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point during the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance), including those first recorded as such in the most recent January census
- In receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of defence because one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces

5.5 Funding

The DfE allocates Pupil Premium funding – this may differ from year to year. The total amount the school receives will vary year on year according to pupil numbers but can be found on the Pupil Premium Strategy each year. The DfE has given us the freedom to use the Pupil Premium as we see fit, based upon our knowledge of our pupil needs. 'It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium, allocated to schools per FSM pupil, is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.'

6.Roles and responsibilities

6.1 Headteacher and SLT

The headteacher and Assistant Heads are responsible for:

- Keeping this policy up to date and ensuring that it is implemented across the school.
- Ensuring that all school staff are aware of their role in raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and supporting pupils with parents in the armed forces
- Planning Pupil Premium spending and keeping this under constant review, using an evidence-based approach and working with virtual school heads where appropriate
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium to assess the impact of the school's use of the funding
- Reporting on the impact of Pupil Premium spending to the Advisory Board on an ongoing basis
- Publishing information on the school's use of the Pupil Premium on the school website, as required by our funding agreement and in line with guidance from the DfE
- Providing relevant training and CPD for staff, as necessary, on supporting disadvantaged pupils and raising attainment
- Through performance management arrangements, ensuring that narrowing the gap is a priority area of focus for the school.
- It will be the responsibility of the Pupil Premium leader to include the following information in the annual report to the Governors: the progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged pupils ; an outline of the provision that has been made since the last annual report ; an evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular

provision, when compared with other forms of support. The school finance officer will monitor the use of the Pupil Premium on a termly basis to track the allocation and use of Pupil Premium funding.

6.2 The Board of governors

Our Governing Body has an important role in ensuring our school complies with legislation and that this policy, along with its specific stated actions for narrowing the gaps is implemented.

The Governors are responsible for:

- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy
- Ensuring the school is using Pupil Premium funding appropriately, in line with the rules set out in the conditions of the grant
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium, in conjunction with the headteacher, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the school's use of the funding
- Monitoring whether the school is ensuring value for money in its use of the Pupil Premium
- Challenging the headteacher to use the Pupil Premium in the most effective way
- Setting the school's ethos and values around supporting disadvantaged members of the school community

6.3 Other school staff

All school staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis.
- Setting high expectations for all pupils, including those eligible for the Pupil Premium.
- Identifying pupils whose attainment is not improving in response to interventions funded by the Pupil Premium, and highlighting these individuals to the senior leadership team.
- Sharing insights into effective practice with other school staff.
- Maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage of circumstance with 'low ability'.
- Promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classrooms which enable pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive.
- Plan and deliver curricula and lessons to a high standard and support the acceleration of progress in learning, so that gaps can be narrowed and improvements maintained.
- Support disadvantaged groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and teaching, especially for those who find aspects of learning difficult and are in danger of falling behind.

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- Keep up – to - date with teaching strategies and research, which have proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement.
- We will provide opportunities for staff to engage in a range of professional development opportunities suited to their particular needs and role. This will support them in implementing successful strategies to accelerate progress of pupils and narrow the gaps.

6.4 Virtual school heads

Virtual school heads are responsible for managing pupil premium funding for children looked after by a local authority, and allocating it to schools. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying eligible looked after children and informing the local authority
- Making sure methods for allocating and spending ensure that looked after children benefit without delay
- Working with each looked after child's educational setting to put together a personal education plan, agree how Pupil Premium funding will be spent to meet the need identified in this plan, and ensure the funding is spent in this way
- Demonstrating how Pupil Premium funding is raising the achievement of looked after children Virtual school heads are in charge of promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the local authority they work for.

7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Pupil Premium leader. At every review, the policy will be shared with the Governing Body.

Our work in relation to the Pupil Premium will be reviewed on a termly basis to ensure it is having the intended impact in narrowing the gaps. This will allow us to make adjustments if particular strategies are not working well, rather than leaving things to the end of the year.

We recognise the importance of context and will evaluate new strategies as robustly as possible to ensure that the approaches we are using have the desired effect. In order to do this effectively, we will where relevant, undertake on-going evaluations of the strategies we are using, such as that outlined in The DIY Evaluation Guide provided by the Education Endowment Foundation. Our annual review will involve staff, pupils, governors and parents and carers.

9. Links with other policies

Although this policy is the key document outlining our approach to narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement for our disadvantaged pupils, we will, however ensure that information about our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 for other pupils for whom narrowing the gap remains an

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issue but are not covered by the Pupil Premium, are also included in key documents such as our school improvement plan, self-evaluation review, school website and newsletters.